

SUMMARY: The document below is the Lord Keeper's referral to the Master of the Rolls, dated 15 May 1594, of Oxford's servant Barnaby Worthy's request to amend his deposition given in Oxford's lawsuit filed in Chancery in 1593 against Roger Harlakenden (d.1603) and Richard Harlakenden for fraud in the sale of Colne Priory. For the deposition which Barnaby Worthy sought to amend, see TNA C 24/239/46. For Barnaby Worthy's sworn statement dated 7 May 1594 of his efforts to have his deposition amended, see Huntington Library EL 5871. Although Barnaby Worthy is described in the document below as 'unlearned', he was literate, as each page of his sworn statement of 7 May 1594 is signed 'Barnabe Worthy'.

xvto die Maij Anno Regni Elizabethe Regine xxxvjto Inter Edwardum Comitem Oxonie Complainant(?) & Rogerum Harlakenden defendentem [=On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May in the 36<sup>th</sup> year [=15 May 1594] of Queen Elizabeth between Edward, Earl of Oxford, complainant, & Roger Harlakenden, defendant]

Forasmuch as the right honourable the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England was now informed that one Barnaby Worthy, having been examined as a witness in this cause on the plaintiff's behalf before Mr Nicholson, one of the examiners of this Court, and being afterwards very careful that his examination should not be set down otherwise than he mean it, which he distrusted it was, the same Barnaby Worthy did repair to the said examiner and desired him, before publication granted, that because he was unlearned he might hear his examination read;

And having it read unto him, and finding thereby that it was set down contrary to his meaning, desired the examiner to have it reformed according as he meant it, which the said examiner would not do because, as he then said, that reformation which the said Worthy desired would alter the whole matter, and now publication is granted the said Worthy findeth the said examination to be clean contrary to his meaning, and therefore desireth it may be reformed as he meant the same;

His Lordship doth therefore refer th' examination thereof to the right worshipful the Master of the Rolls, requiring him to take such order thereon as he shall think meet.

per Richardum Powle deputatum Registrarium(?)